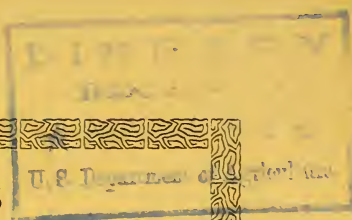


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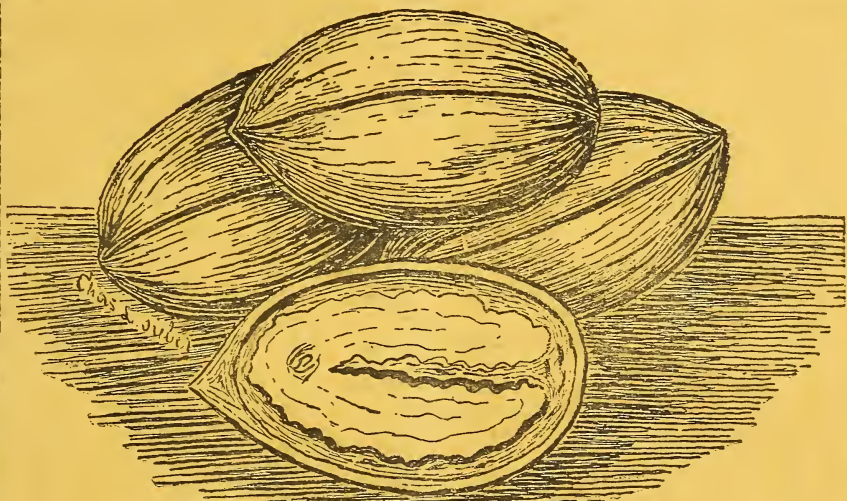
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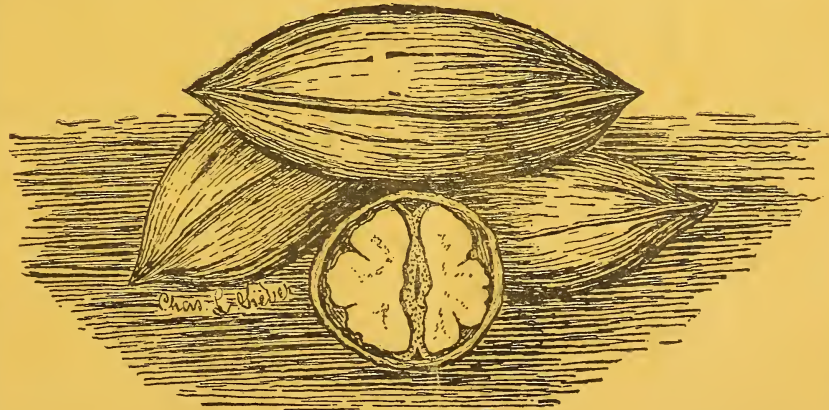
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Price-List of Trees
AND A
Practical Treatise on Pecan Growing.



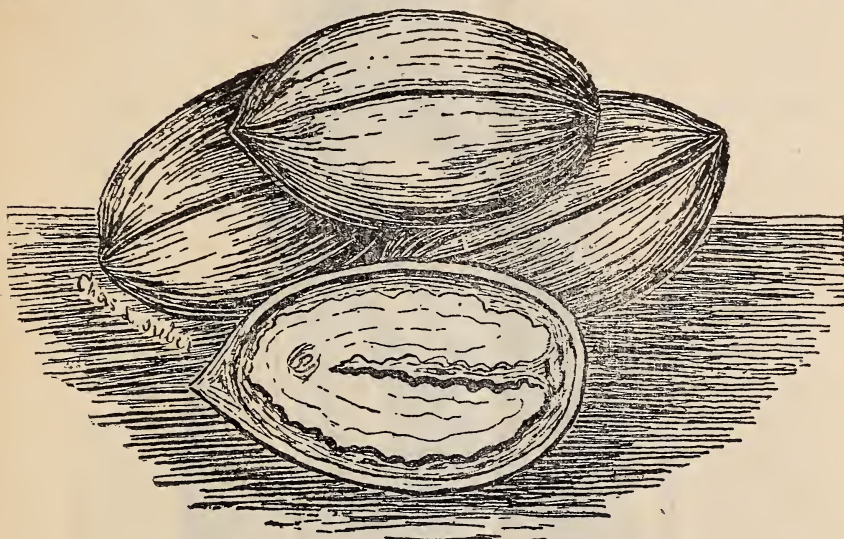
FROTSCHER'S EGG SHELL PECAN.



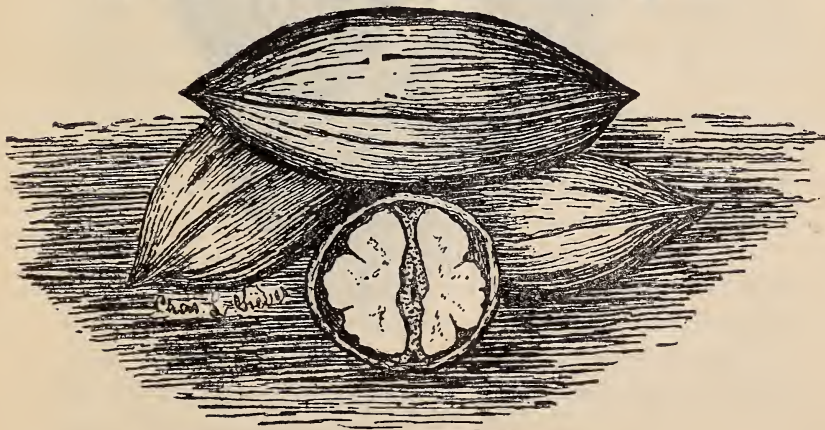
CENTENNIAL PECAN.

BY
WM. NELSON, Station B, New Orleans, La.

Price-List of Trees
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ROMIE PICOAN.



PECANS.

The object of this treatise is to answer the many inquiries received by letter, asking for information on the subject.

The growing of Pecans has, for several years past, begun to attract the attention of Farmers and Fruit Growers throughout the Southern States, where this best of all nuts may be grown. Why an industry so lucrative should have been neglected so long, is hard to explain. It may be because we are apt to overlook the value of things that lie at our feet, in reaching out for some much advertised and greatly overrated novelty that promises impossibilities; such as an early blight proof Pear the earliest of Peaches, Strawberries of extraordinary qualities, and so on, through the whole catalogue of fruits; and also perhaps, because the Pecan is a native with us and growing wild, we think it of little worth. But when we realize "there is money it," we wake up to the fact that "we have done the things we ought not to have done, and left undone that which we should have done."

The Pecan nut has always been a favorite with our people; but beyond the planting of a few trees around the house for home consumption, there have been, up to this time, few trees planted. The nuts that are now sent to market are the surplus from these trees, or those gathered from wild ones.

The tree grows to a large size, 80 or 90 feet high, the trunk at the ground four or more feet in diameter. When given room, the trees will branch low at 8 or 10 feet from the ground, forming a head 70 or 80 feet across. It is long lived, reaching 100, or perhaps more years.

There are hundreds of varieties, that is, the nuts vary greatly in size and quality. Some trees are very abundant bearers,

some are almost barren. Many varieties bear nuts that are only partially filled. I know of some varieties that have only one side of the nut filled, the other side being quite empty, and others with only one end filled. All these varieties, no matter how large, are not worth planting. This defect is constitutional with these varieties, and cannot be altered by cultivation or fertilization. It is due probably to some organic defect in the blossom. It is constant, no matter what conditions of weather prevail at the time of blooming. It will be found in seedling groves even alongside of trees that constantly bear well filled nuts. The Pecan tree is so deeply rooted that it is little affected by drouth. It sometimes happens, at long intervals, that the whole Pecan crop is short. That the nuts on well known varieties do not fill well. This is probably due to adverse conditions of weather at time of blooming, causing imperfect pollination. But this is an accident, is not constant, and must not be confounded with the defect before mentioned.

It has been found in numerous trials by the experimental stations throughout the country. That "cross pollination" is of great benefit to most kinds of fruit. So pronounced is this benefit, that it is now deemed unwise to plant large blocks of any one variety.

Through the Pecan is self-fertile, the male and female blossoms occurring on the same tree, separated from each other by only a few inches. The katkins or pollen bearing organs are produced at the junction of the old and young wood, and the female flowers coming out at the ends of the young shoots some two weeks later; it may so happen that the pollen has become defective from bad weather and before the nut-bearing blossoms are in proper condition to receive it. Now, as there is always some difference in the time of blooming in the many different varieties, it follows that where there is more than one variety planted, there is a better chance for the fertilization of the blossoms, in addition to this there is the benefit of the "cross pollination."

The only other instance I find where the nuts do not fill well is when the trees are defoliated by caterpillars or the growth checked by some other cause. But these are accidents and may be avoided.

Full grown, good bearing trees will yield from one to five barrels of nuts, averaging about 120 pounds to the barrel. The large, sweet, rich, oily nuts, of thin shell, are the best. In price they vary, as to quality, from 5c. to 50c. per pound.

The Pecan will grow on almost any soil, on high or low land. It reaches its largest size on rich low lands, yet we have seen fine trees growing well on a poor sandy soil, 300 feet above sea level. They need no special care, require no pruning and are subject to no disease. With the exception of a caterpillar that eats the leaves, thereby retarding the growth of the young trees, they have no insect enemies that injure them seriously. This caterpillar is easily controlled; as at certain periods, when changing its skin, they cluster together and may then be cut off with the small branch to which they cling, and destroyed.

If properly taken up and carefully planted, there is no trouble transplanting Pecan trees. We find them just as certain to grow on transplanting as any other nursery grown fruit tree.

On a rich, moist soil they should be planted 70 feet apart each way. On a poor sandy land, 50 feet apart will be about right. The proper time to plant is soon after they drop their leaves about the middle of November, and from then on until they start growing in the Spring, about the 1st of March. The holes should be dug some time before planting, that the soil may become mellow, and should be made three feet wide by $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep. When planting do not shovel in all the dirt at once, thereby wrapping the roots about the stem of the tree. Gather up the roots with one hand, after the tree is set in the hole, and with the other pack the soil firmly about the tree and first layer of roots, and so on, layer after layer, until the hole is full. See that the lateral roots extend out at the same depth,

and in about the same direction they were while growing. Pack the dirt firmly about the roots while planting.

Some people plant a tree much the same way they do a fence post, and one has about as much chance to grow as the other.

It is not necessary to cultivate the ground among the trees though it may be done if desired. The ground can be planted in corn, cotton, or any crop annually, until the trees get to be large; after that time the ground may be used as a pasture, as stock does not injure the trees, but are beneficial, in that they keep down the grass and weeds, leaving the ground under the trees clean, so that the nuts may be easily raked up after they fall.

Unlike other fruit, there is no necessity for careful handling of the crop, picking, packing, etc. The nuts are simply gathered up when they fall, put into sacks or barrels and shipped to market at once if desired, or held back for months, if it seems best.

It should not be necessary for me to say anything about the advantages of grafted or budded trees, yet they are many who are planting seedlings.

No one thinks it necessary on sending out a catalogue of fruit trees of Apple, Peach, Pear, etc., to advise their patrons to plant budded or grafted trees. No one would think of planting seedlings of these. Why then plant seedling Pecan trees? You will have to wait ten to fifteen years to see the nuts your tree produces, that you may then decide which of them are fit to let grow, and which have to be cut down as worthless.

That they do not come true from seed is abundantly proven by the many almost worthless varieties we now have in our groves. The tendency of seedlings is not towards an improvement on, but towards a kind inferior to the parent tree. I have never seen two trees in a grove produce nuts exactly alike in size, shape and quality.

It is true, seedlings may be bought for a few cents each, and budded trees are scarce and high in price. But in order to

save a few dollars now, we run the risk of losing thousands a few years hence, and a loss of time that is more valuable still. In other words, we choose an uncertainty rather than a thing we are sure of. Budded trees will come into bearing in about five years from planting.

Being a nursery man and knowing that they do not come true from seed I set about experimenting as to the most successful method of propagating the best kinds, so that I might be able to supply my patrons with good trees. As the result of these experiments I found, after some time, that "Annular" budding was the most successful. I then sought to get the best varieties to propagate from. Through Mr. Frotscher, who being interested in the matter, and much better posted as to the localities where they were to be obtained, we succeeded in getting buds from three different trees, of sorts which we claim to be unequalled.

Wishing to start right, we sent to several places in Texas and Florida, where we heard there were some fine Pecans, and got samples of them for comparison. After examination we adopted the three kinds I am now propagating. We named them, "Centennial." "Rome" and "Frotscher's Egg Shell." The first because the then owner of the tree sent some of the nuts to the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition. The second was named by Richard Frotscher, who brought all three varieties into notice. The last being the name of the owner of the tree. We concluded that it was better not to propagate a number of like kinds, but chose these three as being the best, and also quite distinct in character, covering all the good points desirable in a Pecan.

The "Centennial" is a long nut, pointed at both ends, thin shell, quality the best, very large, abundant and annual bearer. This is a grafted tree about 50 years old.

The "Rome" also called "Columbia" and "Pride of the Coast" is the largest Pecan nut we ever saw, of fine quality,

thin shell, good bearer; in shape it is round at one end and pointed at the other, a very profitable variety.

The "Frotscher's Egg Shell" is of large size, very thin shell, abundant bearer, roundish in shape, and most delicious flavor.

As the annular method of budding takes much time, the fact that the stocks must be two or more years old, the scarcity of budding wood, the cost of digging up the trees, which must be carefully done to insure their growing, will tend to keep up prices for some time to come.

Prices of the three varieties described in this circular:

4	to 5	feet high and over, each	\$2.00
3	to 4	" 2 year buds, "	\$1.50
2½	to 3	" 1 "	\$1.00
1½	to 2½	" late "	\$0.75

10 per cent. off these prices on orders for 50 or more.

Special deductions on orders for 1000 or more.

Prices to the trade on application.

We will book orders now to be filled in rotation as received, provided ½ the amount of the order is enclosed in letter; for all such orders I will reserve the trees.

To make sure of getting the trees wanted it is best to let us book your order in advance. We have always sold out of some sizes and varieties long before the proper time for shipping the trees arrives.

To receive attention orders must be accompanied with N. Y. draft, Check on N. O. Bank, or P. O. Money Order.

With all orders please send plain directions for shipping.

All claims for damage to trees received in transit must be made to forwarders. We mail forwarders receipt to consignee.

No charge for packing.

It is best to plant early, therefore order early.

Orders sent to the J. Steckler Seed Co., Ltd., 518 and 520 Gravier Street, will receive the same attention as those addressed direct to the Nurseries to

WM. NELSON,
Station B, New Orleans, La.

TESTIMONIALS.

The following letters from prominent men will be of interest to anyone intending to plant Pecan trees. A few plain facts, such as these, which are indisputable, are worth more than a volume of unsupported assertion would be.

I could print many more complimentary letters, but selected these from only prominent men and such as contain useful information on Pecan culture.

NEW ORLEANS, LA., JULY 10, 1897.

Mr. Wm. Nelson, City.

DEAR SIR:—Answering your recent letter concerning my opinion of the value of budded Pecan trees, in view of further experience and trial, I can only emphasize what I wrote to the late Richard Frotscher on November 1st, 1895. This you will find republished in the Garden Annual of the **J. Steckler Seed Company, Limited**, pages 127 and 128 of the edition of 1897.

Further study and experience have but confirmed me in my former conclusions; so that now I do not entertain the slightest doubt that *only* budded trees are worth the trouble of planting. The enormous impetus given to pecan culture in California in the last ten years, has led to the invention of an excellent machine for shelling the nuts. It is true that with the aid of such a machine small, hard shell nuts can be utilized for making into candy; but such small nuts can never compete successfully in any market with the finest and largest.

Therefore, commercially speaking—to say nothing of home use—the necessity of insuring the largest soft shell fruit is absolutely essential to the best result in profits. It also seems to me that it will take many years before the crops to be obtained by plantings made now, even on a great scale, can be expected to meet the ever increasing demand throughout the entire country. Plantations made now will enhance the value of land even before paying crops can be had. A thousand

budded Pecan trees of the finest varieties set now will constitute later a fortune for the planter and his children. I think I can, without hesitation, advise the setting of such trees in large numbers for several years to come.

Yours truly,

E. M. HUDSON.

NEW ORLEANS, MAY 12TH, 1897.

Wm. Nelson, Esq., Jefferson Parish, La.

MY DEAR SIR:—In answer to your inquiries concerning the budded Pecan trees which you sold me, will state that they have given me complete satisfaction. Of the first 83 bought, eleven died, some by accident, neglect (ignorance) and only five or six from unknown causes, drouth and perhaps insects (borers). Of the last sixty-one trees transplanted between the 19th and 23rd of last January (1897) *all* are to-day doing very well, with leaves fully formed or budding. Such as were planted in low (watery) places are the last ones to sprout.

The first thirty trees were transplanted in February 27 to March 3, 1891; one of these, the first to fruit, bearing last year. i. e., five and one-half years after transplantation. A few others bloomed but did not bear. The second batch of trees, fifty-three in number, were transplanted between January 24 and 29, 1892. One of these bloomed last year, four years after transplantation, but did not fruit. Nearly, perhaps all of the 1891 and 1892 trees have bloomed this year, some abundantly.

I have had the trees placed fifty feet apart both ways. Prior to planting each tree, I made a compost of the superficial (richer) soil, the same quantity of well rotted barn yard manure and one pound (2 lbs. better) of bone meal, which was carefully packed around the roots, taking good care to keep them in their natural positions. As the trees grew, I would, now and then, have the ground stirred up, the rank grass cut and mulched at their base. Three years after their transplantation, I had the ground scraped up around each tree, until the first

layer of roots were reached, the scraping extending in a circle corresponding to the spreading of the limbs, and sprinkled over this one pound of bone meal to each tree, and replaced over this the removed earth well mixed with an equal quantity of well rotted barn yard manure and trimmed such trees as needed trimming. That this treatment has been very beneficial is proved by the results obtained, some of my trees being 6 and 8 inches in diameter at the base, and from 15 to 18 feet in height with branches in proportion.

I have only 133 trees to-day, the majority old and strong enough to take care of themselves. In the future I will add more trees to my grove. It is a mistake to commence with hundreds or more of trees. One cannot give to all of them the proper attention and minute care which they need. Better commence with such a number as you know you can attend to, add to it, as you progress, and make a success from the start. A tree or animal should never be allowed to be stunted. You have seen my farm, know the condition it is in, and can say whether my pecan grove is to-day a success or not. I don't think it is possible to do better.

Were I twenty years younger (I expect to live that number of years more) I would upon reaching the *prime of life* have an independent fortune, with an income increasing yearly and proof against the machinations of trusts and speculators. When, six years ago, I bought from you my first lot of budded pecan trees and transplanted them, I was very much amused at the remarks and astonishment of some of my acquaintances. Some remarked: "I hope some of your children will live to gather the fruits of your labor." Of course, if a pecan nut is dropped on the ground and left to take care of itself, smothered most of the time by the surrounding grass, one's grand-children may not live long enough to gather the nuts from such a tree. But if trees one or two years old are grafted, cultivated and properly nursed from the seedlings up to their first bearing, things are entirely different, and one 40 or even

50 years of age is not too old to commence pecan culture, with the hope of having an assured quiet old age. The belief that it takes fifteen to twenty years for a pecan tree to bear is an exploded theory.

Respectfully,

Y. R. LEMONNIER, M. D.

NINE MILE POINT, JEFFERSON PARISH, LA., MAY 12, 1897.

Mr. Wm. Nelson.

DEAR SIR:—I answer to your questions regarding Pecan trees, will say:

I have fifteen large bearing trees, what age they are, I can't say exactly, but think they must be over sixty years old, they were on the property when my father came into possession some thirty years ago, and have been bearing ever since.

Pecan trees bear a full crop every alternate year, but we never fail to have a small crop the off year, which brings nearly as much money as the full crop owing to the fact of crop being less throught the country the same season.

One of my largest trees bore last season five barrels of Pecans, they averaged 120 pounds to the barrel and sold for ten cents per pound, being of medium size; another tree, which is one of the largest I have ever seen, measuring nearly ten feet in circumference five feet from the ground, bore about four barrels and sold at fifteen cents per pound, the other trees bear smaller nuts and sell at seven to nine cents per pound.

The crop from all the trees will average something over two hundred dollars yearly, they have had no care or cultivation whatever, and stand in a field which has been used as a pasture for years, the trees affording splendid shade for the cattle during our long, hot summer. They are all seedling trees (that is not grafted) and were planted no doubt, without any regard to size or quality of the nuts, as were all Pecan trees until a few years back when you introduced the grafting of extra large paper shell Pecans on our common stock, thus revolutionizing Pecan culture.

I should not think of planting any other than the very best of grafted trees which always bear true to variety grafted from, and about ten years earlier than from the seed.

Yours truly,

J. C. QUINETTE.

KEYSTONE PLANTATION, }
ST. MARTINSVILLE P. O., LA., MAY 12, 1897. }

Mr. Wm. Nelson, Station B, New Orleans, La.

DEAR SIR:—I have just returned from a trip of close observation over my Pecan orchard and find only three trees out of the 155 budded trees purchased from you last autumn failed to put out, and I think likely one of them will come yet. I lost a very few of the lot had from you three years ago.

My experience so far is so successful that I consider it only due to you to say that I know it is largely your great skill and care in the planting and growing, and especially in the digging up and packing of the young trees with plenty of fibrous roots, that makes their growing such a complete success. Of course none have fruited yet, nor even bloomed, but that will all come in in due course.

Trusting, for your benefit, that many others will see the immense profits in prospect in growing choice pecans, believe me.

Very respectfully yours,

JOHN PETERS,

GOODMAN, MISS., MAY 10, 1897.

Mr. Wm. Nelson.

DEAR SIR:—The three hundred budded Pecans bought of you arrived (by freight) all safe. They were certainly carefully taken up from the nursery and well packed.

They were fine healthy trees and well rooted, the first budded pecan trees I ever saw. I was very careful in setting them out and glad to say never lost a single tree.

I wish I was able to have made my order for 1000, for I know that a grove of that size of your budded trees would be a fortune.

I have seen your three varieties, Rome, Frotscher and Centennial, and they are among the largest and best Pecan nuts in the South. I hope to give you a larger order this coming winter, if I can.

Very truly yours,

JAMES B. MITCHELL.

TUNISBURG, LA., MAY 10, 1897.

Mr. Wm. Nelson, Station B, New Orleans, La.

The trees I bought of you, "budded Pecans," in 1890, now seven years old, came into bearing last year, or six years after planting. They are now about twenty feet high.

The trees have done well and are in every respect satisfactory.

Yours truly,

M. POPOVICH.

RUSK, TEX., MAY 10, 1897.

Mr. Wm. Nelson, New Orleans, La.

DEAR SIR:—Replying to your enquiry in reference to the Pecan trees sold to Mr. Morey and shipped to my address, will say the trees arrived in good shape, having stood the trip without any damage that I could see. I examined trees about ten days ago and found them growing in a satisfactory manner. At this time I do not think we will lose a single tree.

Will say that I personally superintended the planting of the trees, and knew they were properly set.

Respectfully,

L. T. MOORE.

